2009 as compared to previous month *i.e.* December, 2008.

(b) *W.e.f.* 1.4.2008, custom duty on crude palm oil has been reduced to 0% whereas custom duty on both refined palm oil and RBD palmolein had been reduced to 7.5%.

(c) In order to maintain uninterrupted supply of edible oils at affordable price to consumers, certain measures like downward revisions in the import duty on crude and refined edible oils, ban on export of major edible oils and introduction of a Scheme for distribution of subsidized edible oils through State Governments have been taken by the Government from time to time.

Demand and supply of PDS items

604. SHRI MOHD ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each items under PDS supplied to each State, especially Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the demand and supply of each item under PDS; and

(c) whether the APL and BPL families especially the minorities benefited (in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the Government (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution) allocates wheat, rice, coarse grains and sugar to the State/UT Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs). Some States also distribute additional non-PDS items of mass consumption such as exercise books, pulses, iodised salt, tea, etc. through the FPSs. In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government also distributes enriched wheat flour, iodized salt, red gram dal, tamarind, black gram dal, green gram dal and paimolien oil through FPSs.

Allocations of food grains for AAY and BPL families are made @ 35 kg per family per month for the accepted number of families. However, allocations for APL category are made depending upon the availability of stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool. These allocations are made based on allocation norms for TPDS. From 01.02.2001, allocation of levy sugar to States/UTs is being made only for BPL/AAY families, except for NE States, hilly States and island territories for which the allocation is being made for coverage of BPL as well as APL families.

For Andhra Pradesh, the allocations of foodgrains for AAY and BPL categories are made @ 35 kg per family per month for accepted number of 40.63 lakh BPL/AAY families in the State.

The allocation and offtake of foodgrains (wheat and rice) for APL category under TPDS in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last 3 years and current year, are as under:

(in lakh tons)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
2005-06	22.67	15.07
2006-07	21.94	14.98
2007-08	21.78	18.35
2008-09 (upto December, 2008)	12.85	13.67

Against 40.63 lakh BPL/AAY families estimated on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projection of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000, the State Government has issued ration cards to 189.30 lakh BPL/AAY house holds.

The allocation of TPDS kerosene is being made by Government (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas) to States and UTs on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. Allocation of annual quota of TPDS kerosene is being made by the Government to States and UTs on quarterly basis. Distribution of the TPDS kerosene within the States and UTs is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations. Scale of distribution of the TPDS kerosene per cardholder varies from State to State, as decided by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

Rise in import of pulses

605. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in import of pulses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase domestic production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Details of import of pulses as per data received from DGCIS is as follows:

Year	Import of pulses (lakh tonne)
2006-07	24.9
2007-08	29.5
2008-09 (April-August)	8.44

SOURCE: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)

(b) In order to augment the domestic availability of pulses, Government has permitted import of pulses at zero duty. In addition, Government has permitted PSU's namely STC, PEC Ltd., MMTC and NAFED to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses with reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of CIF value.

(c) Government is implementing several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancement of agriculture production including pulses. Some of the major initiatives and steps taken by the Government are:-